

ANCIENT EAGLE HUNTS.

The Trapping of the King of Birds by the Moqui—An Ancient Ceremonial Custom.

The Moqui have many interesting ceremonies aside from the annual snake dance. In a recent article in the American Anthropologist Walter Fewkes writes as follows:

"The ancient method of hunting wild creatures is a most instructive chapter in Moqui ceremonial customs, and merits special treatment. Particularly complicated were the antelope hunts, which of late years, since this animal has diminished so greatly in number, have been practically abandoned. Rabbit hunts are still more or less popular, and they retain a semblance of their ancient ceremonial character; but even these are declining, as they are now only fairly successful.

"The eagle was doubtless the only bird which was systematically hunted by the Moqui in ancient times, but the methods formerly employed have passed into legendary history.

"The ancient kwamakto, or eagle hunt, was accompanied with ceremonial rites, as were antelope hunts a few generations ago, and as are the rabbit hunts which still frequently occur. The method of conducting these ancient eagle hunts is said to have been as follows:

"On a distant mesa northeast of Walpi, but in full view of that pueblo, there is a small circular inclosure, about four feet high, built of stones and called by the Moqui the kwamaki, or eagle hunt house. The hunter hid himself in this inclosure, having previously tied dead rabbits as a bait to the beams overhead. Several features of these ancient inclosures, or kwamakis, in which the Moqui hunter of eagles hid himself to capture these birds, recall the small stone towers so common in some parts of the Southwest, especially along the Colorado and its tributaries. These towers as a rule are small. They are situated on elevated sites, and bear little evidence of long-continued use as human habitations. They are not large enough for permanent dwellings, and the theory that they were employed as outlooks is not wholly satisfactory; nor are they capacious enough for the defense of any considerable number of persons. It is therefore suggested that they were kwamakis, or eagle hunt houses, of the former inhabitants of the region. Many are situated on crags which are known to have been frequented by eagles, and we have the assertion of the Moqui that there were many eagle houses in the north.

"As in all Pueblo customs these eagle hunts were accompanied by certain prescribed usages or rites. The hunter first washed his head as a bodily purification, and deposited a prayer offering in a shrine at or near the eagle house. After these preliminaries he stationed himself in the eagle house and began to sing, accompanying his songs with low calls. Soon an eagle, attracted by the rabbits tied to the logs, circled about and finally alighted on the beams above him, when its legs were seized by the concealed huntsman and the bird was drawn into the inclosure. Other ceremonies followed, concerning which there is little information, but at each eagle hunt one of the birds was always released after a prayer stick had been attached to its leg, it being supposed that the eagle thus freed would return to its comrades, bearing the hunter's prayer. The eagles captured by the methods described were not killed, but were carried to the pueblos.

"The attachment of the prayer stick to the leg of the eagle before being re-

leased is in harmony with present Moqui practices. During the Soyuluna ceremony, for instance, prayer emblems are tied to the tails or manes of burros and horses and to the tails of chickens, turkeys, dogs, cats, etc. It is the same thought. A similar belief led to the burial of prayer sticks with the human dead—they were expressions of prayer to the gods."

NEW SURVEYOR GENERAL.

An Appointment Eminently Fit to be Made—A First-Class Record.

Hon. Hugh H. Price of this city has been appointed as surveyor general for Arizona in place of George Christ, whose term of office expired on the 27th of last month. The appointment of Mr. Price to this important office is one eminently fit to be made. He was a member of the Forty-seventh congress, having been elected when he was but little over the age required by the constitution—twenty-five—to serve the unexpired term of his father, Hon. W. T. Price, who died while serving his third term. Hugh was afterward elected to the state senate, serving four years. His record as a legislator and as a business man in Wisconsin was first-class, and he left there with the respect of as many people as any young man who ever left that state. He located at Phoenix about three years ago and engaged in the banking business, and at present is the cashier and treasurer of the Home Savings Bank of this city. By education and experience in land matters Mr. Price is well qualified to discharge the duties of the office and will make a competent and efficient officer. The president knows Mr. Price very well, having served with him in congress, and of course knew his father better, for he served with him through the greater part of three congresses. In this city, where Mr. Price is best known, his appointment is received with great favor and much rejoicing.

Mr. Price's appointment may be attributed to a strong support from influential friends in Wisconsin, the kind remembrance of the president for his father and himself and to hearty support from the Republicans of this city and other parts of the territory.—Gazette.

Funeral Services.

On Sunday afternoon the funeral took place here of Mrs. Jessie Ainger Hall of Phoenix, who passed away at the Parmalee House last week. The services were very simple, yet they were impressive and beautiful.

Mrs. Hall was the wife of C. J. Hall of the Phoenix National Bank. She came here a short time ago suffering from a relapse of the grip. Her death was caused by this relapse and the nervous exhaustion accompanying it.

The lady met but a few people here on account of her illness, but those who knew her describe her as one of the sweetest of women, a woman of high ideals and culture, a woman loved by all who knew her. She was a daughter of General Ainger of Chicago and Detroit, and was 32 years of age.

The services on Sunday were conducted by an Episcopalian clergyman from Phoenix. As Mr. Hall is an Elk, members of the local lodge of that order assisted as bearers.

General Ainger was present. At the services Mrs. Herbert sang two sacred solos. The interment was in the receiving vault at the cemetery.

Mr. Hall is suffering from the strain of his wife's illness and death and will remain in Santa Barbara during the remainder of the summer.—Daily News, Santa Barbara, Cal., August 6.

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